(c) whether some Industries or Policy Groups are engaged in scientifically mapping the impact of AIDS and HIV and developing prevention care-treatment schemes to tackle this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) On the basis of a sample survey of 2068 HIV and AIDS affected households from six high prevalence States in India, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has estimated that the loss of income of the affected households, as a consequence of leave/absence from work, was of the order of 9.24 per cent. NCAER has informed that the loss of income can be reduced by improving the ability of the affected individuals, through proper care, treatment and education, to carry on their daily activities.

(c) Based on these findings, policies to extend psycho-social and economic support are being framed. An international NGO named HIV Alliance was also recommended by National AIDS Control Organisation to obtain a grant of USD 14 million from the Global Fund under Round VI for taking up impact mitigation measures among HIV infected widows, single-women households and children which included psycho-social counselling, access to nutrition, income generating activities, education and medical care.

Prevention care treatment schemes are developed based on evidence at the National AIDS Control Organisation by technical experts.

**Tie-up of Banks with Tractor manufacturers**

1539. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued any necessary instruction to Public Sector Banks to enter in some kind of understanding or tie up with the manufacturers of tractors or agricultural equipments to help out the farmers in technological upgradation in carrying out agricultural activities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) how many farmers have been benefited under this scheme and what

is the position in this regard with respect to each bank in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Health Insurance**

†1540. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide health insurance facility to the persons living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when this scheme will be implemented; and

(d) the number of persons living below the poverty line and the amount that will be spent on their health insurance, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Redesigned Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) with subsidy for BPL families was introduced in 2004-05 with the sole purpose of providing health insurance to BPL families in the country against a premium of Rs. 365, Rs. 548 and Rs. 730 with a subsidy of Rs. 200, Rs. 300 and Rs. 400 on premium for an individual, family of five and family of seven members respectively. The scheme is being implemented by the four public sector general insurance companies. The policy mainly covers hospitalization benefits up to a limit of Rs. 30,000 for a family on a floater basis including compensation for accidental death of the earning head of the family for Rs. 25,000. Compensation at the rate of Rs. 50 per day for a maximum of 15 days for the period of hospitalization is also payable to the earning head of the family.

(d) As per the Planning Commission estimates, covering the period from 1999 to June 2000, the number of persons below poverty line was 26.03 crore. During 2006-07 a provision Rs. 25 crore was made in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.